

Introduced Version

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. ____

Introduced by: Frizzell

A RESOLUTION memorializing Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley.

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley passed away December 4, 2004, at the United Methodist Home Community in Franklin, Indiana;

Whereas, The service for Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley was held on December 9, 2004, at the United Methodist Home Community Chapel and she was interred at the Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin, Indiana;

Whereas, At the time of her death, Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley had just celebrated her 76th birthday; she had seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren;

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Whereas, A memorial fund was established by the United Methodist Home in her honor;

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter was born October 14, 1928, delivered by her grandmother Nettie Stearns McWhorter, to Arthur Lawrence McWhorter of Russell County and Winnie Dess McWhorter of Clinton County;

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley was a direct descendant of Lawrence Conner, an American Revolutionary War Soldier who served with the 8th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Army, and was awarded a land grant in Cumberland County, Kentucky, where Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley was born;

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter attended school and church at the community of Fairland, located north of Albany;

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter lost two sisters to tuberculosis and one sister to a fire, and her mother became impaired by a brain tumor at an early age;

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter came to Franklin, Indiana, where she met John H. Hendley, whom she married July 17, 1950;

Whereas, Together they had five children: William Haydon Hendley of Indianapolis, Indiana; Freddie Allan Hendley, Sr. of Morgantown, Indiana; Mrs. Patricia Ann Hendley Botts of Franklin, Indiana; Sheila K. Hendley-O'Steen of Brooksville, Florida; and Sharon Elizabeth Hendley Hagan of Franklin, Indiana;

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter- Hendley worked for ten years at the United Methodist Home for the Aged in Franklin;

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley was active in her community, supporting the Tennessee Monument Commission, Inc., which placed a memorial at Gettysburg in 1982; the Anita, Indiana, Historical Marker Committee of Johnson County; the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Indiana; Opal was also commissioned a Kentucky Colonel on



May 21, 1980, by Lieutenant Governor Martha L. Collins;

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley was the last surviving sibling of sisters Bonnie Marie Cunningham and Ruth Ollivine Pittman and brother Elmer Lawrence McWhorter;

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley, a descendant of the same line of the Henry McWhorter Family, was included in the family history entitled "AN INTERESTING BIT OF McWHORTER HISTORY" stating that the McWhorter family "saved Kentucky for the Union during the Civil War";

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley had two great-great-grandfathers and a great-great-uncle who served in the 13th Kentucky Cavalry (Sgt. John F. Jr., Cpl. Ephraim M. Sr., and Cpl. Thomas F.);

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley became the matriarch of the John H. Hendley Tribe of the Francis Marion Hendley Clan of The Hendley Family Association, Inc. on its establishment July 1, 2002, as wife of the Chief Elder of The Hendley Family Association, Inc. on July 28, 2003;

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley served as a great ambassador for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, spreading good will and visiting her native state every year until she was unable; returning one last time for the funeral of her mother on July 24, 1986, at Aaron chapel, near Fairland, Kentucky;

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley was honored by the Kentucky House of Representatives on her 75th birthday with House Resolution # 249 authored by State Representative Jeffrey H. Hoover;

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley lived by the motto of the Hendley Family Association, Inc. - "It is appropriate today that we pause to remember who we are, where we came from and what we have been taught"; and

Whereas, Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley was honored with a last tribute from her native state of Kentucky when Senate President David L. Williams authored Senate Resolution # 131, adopted March 21, 2005: Therefore,



*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives pays a
2 final tribute to the memory of Opal Mae McWhorter-Hendley, a native
3 of Kentucky and a life-long Hoosier, and honors her for her
4 contributions to her family, The Honorable Order of Kentucky
5 Colonels, and the state of Indiana.
- 6 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
7 Representatives transmit copies of this resolution to Chief Elder Mr.
8 John H. Hendley; Mr. William H. Hendley, National President of The
9 Hendley Family Association, Inc.; Mr. Freddie A. Hendley, Senior
10 National Board of Directors, The Hendley Family Association, Inc.;
11 Mrs. Patricia A. Botts, President of the John H. Hendley Tribe; Mrs.
12 Sheila K. O'Steen; Ms. Sharon E. Hagan, Vice President of the John H.
13 Hendley Tribe.

